DATE 2/3/09 BB 382



FEDERATION

NWTF- MONTANA STATE CHAPTER

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Montana Legislators

Over the past couple weeks our Board of Directors have had several conversations with regards to the House Bill 382. And it was voted upon with a unanimous decision to support this bill. Our organization is very concerned about the reduction of hunter numbers in Montana along with the rest of the country. The state chapter for the NWTF feels that it is in the best interest of our future hunters, that we allow the parents and guardians to make the final determination as to when the young person is mature and responsible enough to take on this great American pastime. This endorsement is in no way meant to eliminate the need for completion of a formal hunter education program. We feel that exposing a young person to hunting at an earlier age with a certified mentor will just increase the number of hunter education hours that they receive. We are very pleased with the safety statistics provided by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA), with nearly 250,000 apprentice hunters enrolled and no reportable accidents.

It is with great pleasure that the Montana State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation supports House bill 382.

Thank you for your assistance

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